

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-245 (cancelled)

246. (currently amended) A chemically modified nucleic acid construct, said construct comprising at least one modified nucleotide, or at least one nucleotide analog, ~~or a combination of the foregoing,~~ wherein at least one modified nucleotide or nucleotide analog comprises a fusogenic protein and at least one modified nucleotide or nucleotide analog comprises a ligand, which construct when present in a cell is used as a template for the synthesis of a nucleic acid product having biological activity, wherein said product comprises RNA, ~~said product selected from the group consisting of antisense RNA, antisense DNA, sense RNA, ribozymes, messenger RNA, and a combination of any of the foregoing.~~

247. (currently amended) The construct of claim 246, wherein at least a portion of ~~said construct or a portion thereof~~ is linear, circular or branched.

248. (currently amended) The construct of claim 246, wherein at least a portion of ~~said construct or a portion thereof~~ is single-stranded, double-stranded, partially double-stranded or triple-stranded.

249. (currently amended) The construct of claim ~~248~~246, wherein said construct is in double-stranded form.

250 (currently amended) The construct of claim ~~248~~246, having at least one terminus, said terminus comprising a polynucleotide tail.

251. (previously presented) The construct of claim 250, wherein said

polynucleotide tail is hybridized to a complementary polynucleotide sequence.

252. (currently amended) The construct of claim 246, wherein said construct comprises DNA, ~~or RNA, a DNA-RNA hybrid, a DNA-RNA chimera or a combination of the foregoing.~~

Claims 253-254 (canceled)

255. (currently amended) The construct of claim 246, wherein at least one of said nucleotide analog ~~or analogs~~ modified nucleotides have ~~has~~ been modified at least on the backbone or at least on the side chain or both.

Claims 256-263 (canceled)

264. (currently amended) The construct of claim 246, wherein said ligand or ligands are attached at least to a single stranded segment, at least to a double stranded segment, at least to a single stranded construct tail, or at least to a sequence complementary to a construct tail, ~~or a combination of the foregoing.~~

265. (currently amended) The construct of claim 246, wherein said ligand or ligands are macromolecules, or small molecules, ~~or a combination of both.~~

Claims 266-270 (canceled)

271. (currently amended) A chemically modified double-stranded nucleic acid construct, wherein solely one strand of said construct comprises a modified nucleotide, or a nucleotide analog, ~~or a combination of the foregoing, wherein said modified nucleotide or nucleotide analog comprises a~~ at least one non-nucleic acid entity, wherein said non-nucleic acid entity is selected from the group

consisting of a polypeptide, a ~~protein~~, a saccharide, a fatty acid, and a fatty acid ester, and a combination of the foregoing, which construct when present in a cell is used as a template for the synthesis of a nucleic acid product having biological activity, said product selected from the group consisting of ~~antisense RNA, antisense DNA, sense RNA, ribozymes, messenger RNA, and a combination of any of the foregoing comprising RNA~~, wherein said non-nucleic acid entity confers cell targeting.

272. (currently amended) The chemically modified construct of claim 271, wherein said further comprising a non-nucleic acid entity further that confers cellular localization, or nuclear localization ~~or a combination of the foregoing~~.

273. (currently amended) A chemically modified nucleic acid construct, said construct comprising a modified nucleotide, or a nucleotide analog, ~~or a combination of the foregoing~~, wherein said modified nucleotide or nucleotide analog comprises a at least one non-nucleic acid entity, which construct when present in a cell is used as a template for the synthesis of a nucleic acid product having biological activity, said product selected from the group consisting of ~~antisense RNA, antisense DNA, sense RNA, ribozymes, messenger RNA, and a combination of any of the foregoing comprises RNA~~, wherein said non-nucleic acid entity confers nuclease resistance at least nuclease resistance, or at least cell targeting, cellular localization or nuclear localization, or a combination of the foregoing, wherein said construct further comprises at least two strands, wherein a first strand is a circular strand and the second strand (a) has at least one terminus, said terminus comprising a polynucleotide tail and (b) comprises two segments, wherein one segment is complementary to at least a portion of the first strand and the second segment lacks said complementarity and comprises said polynucleotide tail, wherein said polynucleotide tail is hybridized to a complementary polynucleotide sequence, wherein said complementary nucleic acid sequence comprises a non-nucleic acid entity.

274. (currently amended) The construct of claim 246, wherein said construct further comprises a modified nucleotide or nucleotide analog comprising a non-nucleic acid entity comprising a nuclear localization signal or cellular localization signal.

275. (new) The construct of claim 273, wherein said construct further comprises a modified nucleotide or nucleotide analog comprising a non-nucleic acid entity comprising a nuclear localization signal or cellular localization signal.